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10/805,023

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAN D .

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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3 MONTHS

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,023

Applicant(s)

IKEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Tan Dean D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21,23-25,27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21,23-25,27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/7/06 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

The amendment of 10/30/06 has been entered. Claims 21, 23-24, 25, 27-28 are pending and are rejected as followed. Claims 22 and 26 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 21, 23-24, 25, 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In independent claims 21 and 25, it appears that the claim is incomplete because it does not specify what happens if the inconsistency degree is within norm or there is no conflict? There should be a step for completing the job or execute policies to get the job done. As of now, the claim appears to be in the "Yes" error-loop due to errors from the "inconsistent degree".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 21, 23-24 (method), 25, 27-28 (apparatus) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (1) AHLSTROM et al in view of (2) HAYASHI et al.

As of 10/30/06, independent method claim 21 is as followed:

21. (Currently amended) A job controlling method in a computer system which includes a host computer and a storage apparatus, comprising:

(a) storing condition information including a plurality of conditions for controlling the host computer or the storage apparatus;

(b) defining a job for executing a process for the host computer or the storage apparatus with a parameter for executing;

(c.) calculating an inconsistency degree of the defined job with the condition information by comparing the parameter of the job with the condition information;

(d) outputting result of comparison of the parameter of the job with the condition information, the result including an inconsistency degree;

(e) changing the parameter of the job according to the result of the comparison; and

(f) recalculating the inconsistency degree.

Note, for convenience, letters (a)-(f) are added to the beginning of each step.

Similarly, AHLSTROM et al which deals with a method for controlling an information processing system {see Fig. 2A}, comprising the steps of:

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(a) storing a strategy of the information processing system including a provision to policies each of which defines a process to be executed in the system, wherein the strategy is a control (precedent) strategy {see col. 3, lines 40-50},

(b) defining a job for executing a process for the host computer or the storage apparatus with a parameter for executing {see col. 3, lines 40-50}; and

(e) changing said parameters so that said policies meet the control (precedent) strategy when said parameters are set to said processes defined in said policies", {see col. 5, lines 34-35, col. 9, lines 14-18, or lines 30-36} and

(f) re-determining the policy conflict or conflict resolution {see Fig. 2A, loops (208), (210) and (212)}.

AHLSTROM et al fails to teach steps (c.), (d) and (f).

In a similar method for system for approximate reasoning, HAYASHI et al teaches steps (c.), (d) and (f) for the benefits of obtaining more accurate results of reasoning (comparing analysis) by applying weight to the knowledge of each data {see col. 2, lines 40-65, col. 3, lines 7-55, col. 4, lines 10-60, Figs. 10-18}. It would have been obvious to modify the teachings of AHLSTROM et al by adding steps (c.), (d) and (f) as taught by HAYASHI et al to obtain the cited benefits of more accurate results of reasoning or comparing analysis.

As for dep. claim 23 (part of 21 above), which deals with well known job controlling parameters, i.e. outputting results, this is taught in AHLSTROM et al on col. 1, lines Fig. 1, (120), col. 1, lines 20-30.

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As for dep. claim 24 (part of 21 above), which deals with well known job controlling parameters, i.e. repeating steps (e) and (f), these are well known steps and are taught in AHLSTROM et al Fig. 2A.

As for **independent apparatus claim 25**, which is merely the apparatus to carry out the method claim 21 above, it's rejected over the apparatus of AHLSTROM et al and HAYASHI et al to carry out the rejections of the steps of claim 21 above. Moreover, it would have been obvious to a skilled artisan to set up respective apparatus to carry out the method claim 21 above.

As for dep. claims 27-28 (part of 25 above), which have the same limitations as in dep. claims 23-24 (part of 21 above), they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in dep. claims 23 and 24 above.

No claims are allowed.

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7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct@uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

In receiving an Office Action, it becomes apparent that certain documents are missing, e. g. copies of references, Forms PTO 1449, PTO-892, etc., requests for copies should be directed to Tech Center 3600 Customer Service at (571) 272-3600, or e-mail CustomerService3600@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry concerning the merits of the examination of the application should be directed to Dean Tan Nguyen at telephone number (571) 272-6806. My work schedule is normally Monday through Friday from 6:30 am - 4:00 pm. I am scheduled to be off every other Friday.

Should I be unavailable during my normal working hours, my supervisor John Weiss can be reached at (571) 272-6812.

The main FAX phone numbers for formal communications concerning this application are **(571) 273-8300**. My personal Fax is (571) 273-6806. Informal communications may be made, following a telephone call to the examiner, by an informal FAX number to be given.

dtn
January 8, 2007


DEANT. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER